AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the following set of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a display;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression method selection unit for selecting from among a plurality of compression methods, one of the plurality of compression methods for each region for the compression process to be performed for each region, wherein the selection unit displays one or more compression methods on the display for each region, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression methods in accordance with a type of the region from among the plurality of compression methods, and wherein for each type of region, the selection unit displays only compression methods from compression methods in the plurality of compression methods that are designated for the type of region;

said region compression unit performing the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region by said compression method selection unit.

2. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit;

a display; and

a compression process mode setting unit, said compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes on the display, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression process modes;

said region compression unit using, when a speed preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

3. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit;

a display; and

a compression process mode setting unit, said compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes on the display, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression process modes;

said region compression unit using, when a picture quality preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

4. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit;

a display; and

a compression process mode setting unit, said compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes on the display, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression process modes;

said region compression unit using, when a size preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

5. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit;

a display; and

a compression process mode setting unit, said compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes on the display, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression process modes;

said region compression unit using, when a speed preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression

methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among the plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region,

said region compression unit using, when a picture quality preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among the plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression unit using, when a size preference mode is set at said compression process mode setting unit, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among the plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

6. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

an object extraction unit for interpreting a document file described in a page description language, and extracting an object which is a component of the document file,

an object compression unit for performing a compression process for each of the object data extracted by said object extraction unit;

a display;

an object synthesis unit for synthesizing the object data compressed by said object compression unit; and

a compression method selection unit for selecting a compression method for the compression process to be performed for each of the objects extracted by said object extraction unit from among a plurality of compression methods designated individually for types of the object data, wherein the selection unit displays one or more compression methods on the display for each of the objects, enabling a user to select one of the displayed compression methods, and for each type of object, the selection unit displays only compression methods that are designated for the type of object;

said object compression unit performing the compression process for each of the objects using the compression method selected for the objects by said compression method selection unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting <u>by a regional extracting component or processor,</u> a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step of performing <u>by a compressing component or processor,</u> compression a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step of synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression method displaying step for displaying on a display for each region one or more compression methods for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the one or more compression methods is designated for the type of region; and

a compression method selection step for selecting, for each region, a displayed compression method for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region;

said region compression step performing <u>by the compressing component or processor,</u> the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region data by said compression method selection step.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting <u>by a regional extracting component or processor,</u> a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing <u>by a compressing component or processor,</u> a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes on a display; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting <u>by a regional extracting component or processor,</u> a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing <u>by a compressing component or processor</u> a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes on a display; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting <u>by a regional extracting component or processor,</u> a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process <u>by a regional compressing component or processor,</u> for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes on a display; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting <u>by a regional extracting component or processor,</u> a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing <u>by a regional compressing component or processor,</u> a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes on a display; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression processing mode;

said region compression step using, when a speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest

processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region,

said region compression step using, when a picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression step using, when a size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step of performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step of synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression method displaying step for displaying for each region one or more compression methods for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the one or more compression methods is designated for the type of region; and

a compression method selection step for selecting, for each region, a displayed compression method for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region;

said region compression step performing the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region data by said compression method selection step.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when a size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression

methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step;

a compression process mode displaying step for displaying a plurality of compression process modes; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a compression processing mode;

said region compression step using, when a speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected

from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region,

said region compression step using, when a picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression step using, when a size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.

17 - 39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit;

a display; and

a compression process mode setting unit for setting a compression process mode, said compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression process modes;

said region compression unit using, when a compression process mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which best performs the compression process for the individual region according to the selected compression process mode, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods is designated for the type of region.